



3/12 performs artillery live fire exercise at Fuji. See story, Pages 14-15

September 22, 2000

Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan

www.okinawa.usmc.mil

Saomai hits Okinawa, causes minor damage

Consolidated Public Affairs Office

CAMP BUTLER – With maximum wind gusts of 77 mph, Typhoon Saomai breezed through the island of Okinawa during the evening hours Sept. 12

The Category 4 typhoon left nine inches of rainfall between Sept. 12 and 13 with maximum sustained winds of 56 mph, according to Gunnery Sgt. Daniel A. Faillo, weather forecaster, Weather Service Section, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

Saomai was located six nautical miles northeast of Kadena Air Base during its closest point of approach, according to Faillo.

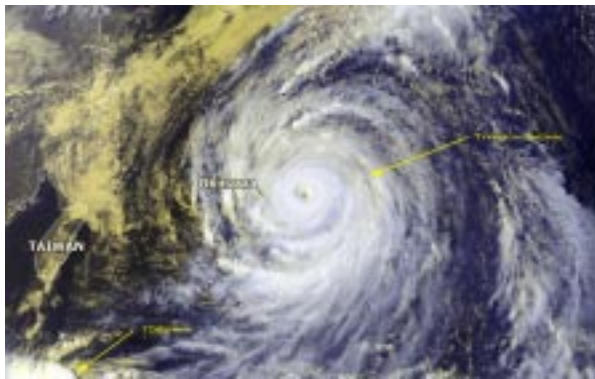
Although Saomai wasn't as strong as Typhoon Jelawat, the latest typhoon, which struck Aug. 8, caused more damage than its predecessor, according to Staff Sgt. Matias Delgadorodriguez, utilities engineer, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base.

"The majority of the damage done to most camps was minor, such as trees uprooted and covers to lights blown away or broken," Delgadorodriguez said, "However, Camp Foster received roof damage to the H&S Bn. building which was left with some water damage as well."

The cost to repair damages to the Marine Corps facilities is approximately \$860,000 according to Delgadorodriguez.

Also, Plaza Housing on Camp Foster experienced a power outage for approximately three hours during the typhoon.

"Once the eye of the typhoon passed nearest to Okinawa, the winds died down and we received authorization from the Facilities Maintenance Officer to restore power. This procedure was completed in less than one hour," Delgadorodriguez said.



COURTESY PHOTO

A satellite image depicts Typhoon Saomai as it looms over Okinawa

Island Marines drown

Consolidated Public Affairs Office

CAMP BUTLER — A Marine from Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base, died while swimming near Tengan Pier, Sept. 10.

Sgt. Randy D. Reckart, a guard at the Marine Corps Brig on Camp Hansen, was pronounced dead at 2:45 p.m. at the Gushikawa City Hospital.

Reckart is survived by his brother, Pat William Reckart, of Reedsville, W. Va.

Another Marine, Lance Cpl. Charlie C. Meador, assigned to the Motor Transport Section, 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, drowned Sept. 12 after being swept to sea at Oura Beach during Typhoon Saomai.

Meador is survived by his wife, Rebecca T. Meador, and his son.

Both incidents are under investigation.



CPL JACOB A. FULLER

The Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James L. Jones, thanks a CH-46 helicopter crew after landing at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Monday.

Commandant visits Okinawa

Staff Sgt. Jason M. Webb

Combat Correspondent

CAMP BUTLER — Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James L. Jones and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Alford L. McMichael arrived Sept. 15 to visit with III Marine Expeditionary Force Marines and top Okinawan officials.

This was the second time they have been to Okinawa since taking their posts at Headquarters Marine Corps.

The Commandant and Sergeant Major made the stop here after visiting South Korea where they honored veterans of the amphibious landing at Inchon 50 years ago during a Sept. 15 ceremony.

During their visit, Gen. Jones and Sgt. Maj. McMichael had the opportunity to get a first-hand update on the many issues facing Marines here and to talk with them face-to-face.

"I'm here to tell the Marines about what a great job they are doing, and I'm delighted to walk around and see them doing such a professional job," Gen. Jones said.

Even though their stay was limited to a few days, both Gen. Jones and Sgt. Maj. McMichael met with various groups of Marines and local officials including the Governor of Okinawa, the Honorable Keiichi Inamine.

In addition to meetings with local officials and III MEF leaders, they both allotted time to hear problems and solutions facing Marines on Okinawa and the Marine Corps in general.

They both discussed issues with staff noncommissioned officers and their spouses at Club Chesty's on Camp Foster and attended an NCO symposium debrief which allowed a group of 12 NCO's from various occupational specialties to give a presentation about what they would like to see changed in the Marine Corps.

"The Marines here face the same problems as the Marines in the states," Sgt. Maj. McMichael said. "I didn't come here to see differences. I came here to see similarities. They are not different, they just have a different locale. They still have the same fire in their eyes and belong to one family--a Marine family."

New LES available on internet

Defense Finance and Accounting Service

A new paperless initiative is now in the testing phase. Now with electronic Leave and Earnings Statements, Marines will be able to view and print their LES through their Employee/Member Self Service, accounts. The new capability became available Sept. 11.

E-LES mirrors the existing hard-copy LES and is protected by a secure protocol that protects data between the user's computer and the E/MSS server, allowing only the user to view and print personal

statements. To access E-LES, Marines must customize their E/MSS temporary Personal Identification Numbers.

Temporary PINs are good until Oct. 15, and all customers are required to customize PINs when using E/MSS for the first time. User-friendly menus will guide users through the system, and online assistance is available throughout the entire process.

Accessing and updating pay information and viewing and printing leave and earnings statements electronically not only saves time and money, but it also allows more individual control over pay account activity.

E-LES, when implemented, will be accessible through the Internet at emss.dfas.mil.

Reading Recovery Program aids DoDDS students

Charles K. Steitz

Contributing Writer

In an effort to help first graders who are struggling readers, the Department of Defense Dependent Schools is continuing its sponsorship of an early intervention reading program here.

The program, Reading Recovery, originated in Auckland, New Zealand in the 1970's under the research, development, and guidance of Dr. Marie M. Clay.

Clay, a New Zealand educator and psychologist, began the program as an alternative to traditional reading practices for educationally disadvantaged and learning-disabled students.

Because of its high success rate in helping students learn to read, many school districts in the United States have also adopted the program.

"It is important to understand that the foundation of Reading Recovery began with the systematic observation of young children as they worked at learning how to read and write," said Jeanne Lemire, Reading Recovery teacher leader, DoDDS-Okinawa. "The procedures for teaching the children evolved by observing the teachers and the children as they worked behind a one-way mirror."

The program targets the lowest 15-20 percent of a school's first grade population.

According to research by Gay Su Pinnell, a professor at Ohio State University, about 10-20 percent of children in the United States have difficulty learning to read and write.

According to the study, these children are not necessarily non-readers, but seem to have difficulty with the critical tasks of reading and writing as they begin school.

"If these children are not worked with early in their school career, their frustration with learning to read soon affects their self-esteem which can lead to reading failure in later years," said Dr. Gayle Vaughn-Wiles, deputy superintendent, DoDDS-Okinawa. "Reading Recovery

is a individualized program that helps children develop reading strategies with the goal of having them read on grade level."

Parents who used the program last year will notice a difference because DoDDS-Okinawa now has a Reading Recovery teacher-leader who is specifically trained to monitor the overall program and work closely with the teachers.

"Having someone on board with this expertise ensures that Reading Recovery teachers continue to have the support they need to assure that their children continue to make progress," said Jane Schneider, District Early Childhood and Reading/Language Arts Liaison.

For school year 2000-01, there are 15 trained professionals instructing Reading Recovery district wide, with an additional 12 teachers in a year-long training program.

Reading Recovery Programs can be found in the following Marine Corps schools: Bechtel Elementary School, E.C. Killin Elementary School, Zukeran Elementary School, and Kinser Elementary School.

"The Reading Recovery program has a 90 percent success rate and provides a great start for children who have reading difficulties," said Sharon Carter, principal, Zukeran Elementary School. "We've experienced tremendous success with our program at Zukeran Elementary School."

What can parents expect if their child participates in the program?

According to Lemire, a Reading Recovery student receives 30 minutes of individualized instruction daily in addition to the classroom reading program.

The students begin each lesson practicing reading strategies by rereading familiar text. Next, the students write about what they just read. This step serves as a way for the teacher to problem-solve how the child is having difficulty decoding words.

The teacher can then offer specific strategies and self-monitoring skills to help the child build letter-sound relationships. Then the teacher introduces a new book with

an emphasis on plot, language structure, and text style.

The student reads the book with the teacher's guidance utilizing all the information to obtain a clear understanding and to construct meaning.

Parents, classroom teachers, and Reading Recovery teachers form a three-way partnership to help the student.

Parents ensure regular school attendance, attend parent-teacher conferences, observe Reading Recovery lessons, and listen daily at home while their child rereads familiar books.

Classroom teachers support the success of Reading Recovery students by providing opportunities for students to read books and write short stories.

Teachers also offer encouragement that helps students to progress quickly. The Reading Recovery teacher continually monitors and observes the students' performance to make informed decisions.

Extensive teacher training is a key element that makes the program work.

"Through training, teachers gain the knowledge necessary to observe the child, provide the instructional focus, and select from the menu of reading strategies," Lemire said. "It is important to understand that Reading Recovery works because of the quality of the teachers' decisions in relation to the instructional needs of the individual child."

Reading Recovery teachers receive ongoing support from the teacher leader and their colleagues to continue to refine and improve their teaching strategies.

To promote successful teaching, Reading Recovery teachers must constantly evaluate their own teaching and have opportunities for peer evaluation utilizing a continuous improvement process and training sessions referred to as 'behind the glass.'

For additional information, contact the DoDDS-Okinawa district superintendent's office at 634-1204 or call Jeanne Lemire at 634-0636.

Marines, Sailors send season's greetings home

Sgt. Robert J. Angus

Combat Correspondent

CAMP FOSTER – Army and Air Force Home Town News Service film crew participating in the Holiday Greetings Program recorded more than 150 video messages for Marines, Sailors and their families Sept. 16 at the Globe and Anchor enlisted club here.

The program, in its 16th year, is open to military personnel and their families who are unable to be home for the holidays.

These video greetings will be added to the nearly 8,000 others gathered throughout the Pacific, European and Southwest Asia regions and distributed to more than 2,000 radio, television and cable stations throughout the United States.

"This program began unofficially in 1984 when holiday greetings were made for U.S. peace keepers deployed to the Sinai Desert," said Thomas M. Taylor, chief broadcaster, News Division, Army and Air Force Home Town News. "It proved to be a great morale boost for both the troops and families

back home and the commercial television industry responded well to it. This sparked interest and it was recognized as a great way to show service members overseas."

Since that time, the program has expanded from the original Sinai Desert greeting to its present numbers.

The program also continues to improve morale for both service members and their families here as well as their families back in the United States.

"We've been here for five months now and won't be able to make it back to the states for the holidays," said Sgt. Cheryl J. Hyde, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base. "It gives our friends and family a chance to see how we are doing and how are daughter is growing up. I've seen these kind of messages before and I'm anxious for my

friends and family to see mine."

Now in his sixth year of traveling around the world to videotape holiday greetings, Taylor has come to a few conclusions.

"I think participation in the program would be much higher if service members realized the impact it has on their families back in the United States," Taylor said.

"Some parents even call to see if their sons or daughters made a video. I've also noticed that those service members who do record messages, do it again and again each year because of the response they get from their families. I don't think there is a better present a service member can give than a holiday video greeting."



SGT. ROBERT J. ANGUS

Cpl. Thomas M. Maxin Jr., system administrator, Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron-18, Marine Air Control Group-18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, records a holiday greeting for his friends and family.



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<http://okinawa.usmc.mil>

DoD attacks Ecstasy drug use in U.S. military

Gerry J. Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — What drug comes in tablets, makes “painful” realities go away and is popular among hedonistic young people today — including some service members?

The answer is an illegal “designer” drug called Ecstasy, also known as “Adam,” “XTC,” “Clarity” and “Es-sence,” among other street names.

“Its use by service members increased markedly in fiscal 1999, and that’s a concern to the Department of Defense,” said Army Col. Mick Smith, science and testing officer of DoD’s Office of the Coordinator for Drug Enforcement Policy and Support.

DoD has tracked Ecstasy and service members’ use since the early 1990s.

“Our primary concern was that this was a popular drug in Europe, and we had service members stationed there,” Smith said.

DoD mandated servicewide random testing for Ecstasy in 1997. “Ecstasy use is still not as prevalent as use of marijuana or cocaine.”

Ecstasy is the common name for 3, 4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine, a synthetic, psychoactive drug.

It has no medical value and cannot be prescribed legally, Smith said.

The drug is mostly manufactured in secret labs in the Netherlands and Bel-

gium, with worldwide distribution arranged by organized crime.

Most people who use Ecstasy range in age from 14 to 25, with 18 being the most common age, he said.

When ingested, Ecstasy is quickly absorbed into the user’s bloodstream, Smith said.

It goes to the brain and causes a massive release of a natural chemical called serotonin.

“Serotonin is a chemical that makes us feel good, so the Ecstasy user feels euphoria and a heightening of his or her senses,” he said. “The user will also experience increased heart rate, increased energy level and may hallucinate.”

One “hit” of Ecstasy, which can cost up to \$30, may last four to six hours, he added.

However, Ecstasy has a dark downside not readily apparent to the “invincible” young people who use it.

“Recent scientific evidence has shown that even small amounts of Ecstasy damage the nerve cells that produce serotonin and cause permanent brain damage,” Smith said. “

Users become depressed and suffer from memory loss and some chronic users become permanently depressed, he added.

Smith notes that Ecstasy has been popular since the late 1980s among young people overseas, particularly in Europe.

The drug has become a signature of youthful crowds that dance all night in packed, overheated clubs called “raves.”

The drug has crossed the Atlantic in force: U.S. hospitals participating in the Drug Abuse Warning Network reported that Ecstasy-related emergency room incidents increased nationwide from 250 in 1994, to 637 in 1997, to 1,142 in 1998.

Ecstasy abuse can be dangerous.

“Users taking too much Ecstasy may become dehydrated, have elevated temperature, have a drop in blood pressure, have a seizure, and die,” Smith said. “There have been numerous reports of young people dying after Ecstasy use.”

Each 300 milligram Ecstasy tablet contains about 75 to 150 milligrams of the drug, often mixed with other chemicals, Smith said.

The tablets may be branded with logos such as butterflies, lightning bolts, zodiac signs, stars and clovers.

The president’s Office of National Drug Control Policy reports that most Ecstasy comes from Europe, but noted recently that the Drug Enforcement Administration seized five clandestine Ecstasy labs in the United States in early 1999.

The U.S. military takes service members’ drug abuse seriously.

It uses education and deterrence — most notably in the form of random urinalyses testing — to reduce drug demand within its ranks, Smith said.

These efforts continue to be successful, he said, pointing to the relatively low number of service members who are testing positive for illegal drug use.

The DoD conducted 2,273,998 urinalyses in fiscal 1999, according to Smith.

Marijuana positives were 12,006, cocaine positives were 2,839, methamphetamine positives were 807, Ecstasy positives were 432, and lysergic acid diethylamide — LSD — positives were 325.

Additionally, the Defense Department has worked for three years to develop a better drug test, Smith said.

“Next year, DoD will implement a better screening process in its random drug testing program that will be more sensitive and identify more Ecstasy users,” he said. “DoD has also been working with law enforcement officials to track and identify sources of supply and regions where Ecstasy use is most prevalent.”

The largest recent increase in use has been in the Northeast, he added.

Using Ecstasy violates Article 112-A of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Smith said.

The article outlaws the knowing use of any illegal drug in the military.

Drug users are subject to punitive discharges, prison or both.

“Many drug users believe that they will not get caught, but when they do get caught in a random drug test, the consequences are harsh,” he concluded.

Time running out for absentee voters

Army Staff Sgt. Kathleen T. Rhem

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Time is running out to register to vote absentee in the Nov. 7 presidential election.

Federal voting officials recommend individuals voting by absentee ballot, including the roughly 6 million potential voters covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act of 1986, send in their federal postcard applications at least 45 days before an election.

Many states require the applications be postmarked at least 30 days before the election date.

Officials with the Federal Voting Assistance Program have put a tremendous amount of information about absentee voting on the Internet.

To make absentee voting easier, at least 42 states now accept the online version of the Federal Post Card Application.

The online form and a list of the states accepting it is at www.fvap.ncr.gov/othertools/onlinefpca.html.

For voters undecided about upcoming local races, the DoD Voting Information Center allows callers to hear messages, via an ordinary phone line, from incumbent U.S. senators and representatives, governors, and secretaries of state.

In addition, 60 days prior to an election, messages from candidates for these offices are also available.

The Voting Information Center’s toll-free number is (800) 438-8683, or for those using the military’s Defense Switched Network, 425-1584.

Toll-free numbers from 50 foreign countries are available online at www.fvap.ncr.gov/tollfree2000.html.

Another section military voters might find particularly helpful is www.fvap.ncr.gov/publications/howtoinfo.html.

This page consists of an electronic version of the useful pamphlet How To Do It - Vote Absentee.

The pamphlet is also available through unit and installation Voting Assistance Offices.



PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS BRANDAN KRIEGER

A constant reminder

The Nurse Corps and Nutrition Services at U.S. Naval Hospital, Okinawa on Camp Lester, dedicated a table in the galley to honor the nation’s POW/MIA. The table was first displayed Sept. 11 and is a permanent addition to the hospital.

Courts-martial REPORT III MEF/MCBJ

• A sergeant assigned to 3rd Medical Battalion, 3rd Force Service Support Group, was sentenced to five months confinement, reduction to E-1, forfeiture of \$660 per month for six months and a bad conduct discharge following a conviction at a special court-martial of three specifications of Article 112a, illegal narcotics.

Alcohol-related NJPs III MEF/MCBJ

The following are alcohol-related nonjudicial punishments for Sept. 10-16.

- Drunk and disorderly

A lance corporal with 3rd Materiel Readiness Battalion, 3rd Force Service Support Group, was found guilty at a company-level NJP of being drunk and disorderly. Punishment: forfeiture of \$311 per month for two months, restriction and extra duties for 45 days.

- Underage drinking

A lance corporal with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd FSSG, was found guilty at a company-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: forfeiture of \$150 for one month, restriction and extra duties for 14 days.

- Underage drinking

A lance corporal with 9th ESB, 3rd FSSG, was found guilty at a company-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: forfeiture of \$273 for one month, restriction and extra duties for 14 days.

- Underage drinking

A lance corporal with 9th ESB, 3rd FSSG, was found guilty at a company-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: forfeiture of \$234 for one month, restriction and extra duties for 14 days.

- Underage drinking

A private first class with Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base, was found guilty at a battalion-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: reduction to E-1, forfeiture of \$502 per month for two months, restriction and extra duties for 60 days.

To submit a brief ...

The Okinawa Marine accepts briefs for non-profit organizations and groups only. Briefs are run on space-available and time-priority basis. Deadline for briefs is noon Friday. The Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit to fit space. Submit briefs by faxing to 645-3803, or send an e-mail to editors@mcbbutler.usmc.mil.



SGT. JENNIFER A. WOLF

OkiNapa wine festival

Pasta dishes, cheeses, fruits, breads and seared Japanese tuna were served to complement the vast array of wines and sake available for sampling during the 4th Annual OkiNapa Wine Festival held at the Camp Butler Officers' Club Sept. 16.

Community Briefs

Toys for Tots volunteers

The Marine Corps Reserve is kicking off its annual Toys for Tots program and is looking for volunteers to assist this year. The program stages collection displays at various locations where donors can leave new, unwrapped toys. The toys are given to agencies that identify and distribute the items to deserving families.

Volunteers are needed to help sort and distribute toys to families in our community, and donate wrapping paper. Also, if you know of a deserving family, please submit their name to your chaplain or first sergeant.

For more information, call 622-7889.

6th Annual Royal Delight

The Camp Foster Chapel Gospel Community is sponsoring the 6th Annual Royal Delight at the Butler Officers' Club Oct. 6. The theme for this formal event is "One body in Christ." Social hour begins at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m. Guests will have the choice of beef, chicken or vegetarian dinner entrees and entertainment will be provided by Big Daddy Stovall Productions. Tickets for the event are \$25.

For tickets or information, call 646-6565, or 646-3132.

Women's group art auction

The Army Women's Group is hosting its annual charity art auction Oct. 21 at the Butler Officers' Club.

For more information, call Shelley at 644-4385/4378.

Okinawa Dolphins swim meet

The Okinawa Dolphins is scheduled to host a swim meet Oct. 29, at the Camp Foster 25-meter pool. Warm-ups begin at noon with the competition starting at 1:15 p.m.

Regular team practice is scheduled to begin Oct. 10.

For more information about the Okinawa Dolphins or their practice schedule call 645-2787.

USO, AT&T volleyball challenge

The USO and AT&T are scheduled to host a three-on-three volleyball challenge at Camp Schwab Oura Wan Beach Saturday. Sign up at the beach begins at 10 a.m. The games start at 11:30 a.m. There is no fee for sign up.

Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. The event will include a DJ, music, free food, games and more. The event is open to all SOFA status personnel and their families.

For more information, call USO Marketing at 633-4510.

Jewish High Holy Days

All services will be held at Camp Foster Chapel except where indicated otherwise.

Rosh Hashana services:

Sep. 29	Evening service	7 p.m.
Sep. 30	Morning service	9:30 a.m.
Sep. 30	Tashlich (Kinser Chapel)	4:30 p.m.
Oct. 1	Service (CREDO Center)	9:30 p.m.
Oct. 1	Fellowship	Noon

Shabbat Shuvah services:

Oct. 6	Shabbat service	7 p.m.
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Yom Kippur services:

Oct. 8	Kol Nidre service	6:15 p.m.
Oct. 9	Morning service	10 a.m.
Oct. 9	Yizkor memorial service	Noon
Oct. 9	Discussion	4:30 p.m.
Oct. 9	Concluding service	6 p.m.

Kubasaki PTSA meeting

Kubasaki High School's PTSA will hold a meeting Oct. 3 at 6:15 p.m. in the Kubasaki library. All members of the Kubasaki community are invited to attend.

Lessons learned from a mountain

The ability to tie two figure-eight knots in the quarter-inch-thick nylon rope attached to the side of a mountain was the only safety measure keeping me from death through the ground 4,000 feet below.

As I reached up to climb a section of the mountain, I noticed my bootlace was untied.

This was not comforting.

As a combat cameraman for the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, I jumped at the chance to photograph our Force Reconnaissance detachment as they went through the Slovenian Armed Forces Mountain School.

The school was called “Gorska Sola Slovenski Vojske,” which I believe translates into “high, deadly mountains with lots of falling rocks.”

Like the other Marines there, I had been through the schools. But it had been almost a year since I last climbed a mountain of any magnitude. I had also been told on more than one occasion that people pay lots of money to climb mountains like these.

By the time I was half way up the first rock face, I was willing to offer my slot up for the simple price of

an elevator ride back down.

We began the school by climbing a smaller, 3,500-foot mountain. Though more physically challenging, this slab of rock was half as short as the 7,000-foot monolith I was scaling when my bootlace came untied. It was this mountain, which I had affectionately named “I hate you,” that posed the greater risk.

As we were climbing along this ridge of the mountain, I noticed a plaque had been embedded in a portion of it. We asked our instructor why it was there. He replied simply, “Fallen climber,” and continued to walk.

Despite the rocks that fell about my head and the mountain goats we were told would knock us off the rock, I kept going.

We slept alongside the mountain that night in our sleeping bags. In spite of the cold and fear of a rogue mountain goat wandering into our camp, I slept very well.

Though we had only a few thousand feet left to go, they were the hardest.

With my camera slung around my neck, I balanced the

delicate tasks of climbing, photographing and praying. As quickly as my climb on the death mountain had begun, we found ourselves crossing the last ledge. Just ahead was a narrow ridge that marked a path to the zenith of the mountain we had spent more than two days climbing.

Then, it hit me. As I stood higher than some birds fly, I remembered why I jumped at the chance to do this. Every step of the mountain, every dull ache in my body, every time I thought the figure eight knot might go the way of my boot lace, was worth it.

I threw my hands above my head in victory; I jumped up and down; I had beaten the mountain.

As the wind swayed me, I glanced down to see my own feet standing on a narrow strip of Earth, surrounded by a 7,000-foot drop on either side.

I dropped to my hands and knees and crawled to the large, flat top of the mountain.

I think I’m a different man because of my journey. My climb taught me that in climbing, as in life, the road to the top is worth the agony. I learned that pride in winning is worth the risk of failure.

Mostly, though, I learned to never, ever, jump up and down when you’re at the top of a mountain.

That’s just stupid.

Cpl. Richard T. O’Connor,
26th Marine Expeditionary Unit Correspondent

Building character is hard, demanding work

Confession time—I love radio talk shows. My favorite radio personality is Dr. Laura Schlessinger. Dr. Laura, in her lively pull-no-punches style takes on the moral dilemmas of everyday life. One of her favorite topics is character.

Character, Dr. Laura, suggests is “what you are when no one is looking.” A while back I happened to be standing on a balcony enjoying a cup of coffee. Below me a man bought a paper from a vending machine.

Instead of just taking a paper, he opened the door, took his paper, and proceeded to place all the other papers on top of the machine. A few moments later another came along looking for a paper. Seeing the stack of papers on top of the vending machine he started to reach for one, stopped, then looked around.

There was no one around to see what was happening except me whom he did not see. Again his hand reached forward and stopped. He sighed. Then he put his money in the machine, opened it, put all the papers back in except the one he had purchased, and with a spring in his step he walked off whistling. This person had character!

How do we go about developing character?

Character is created through constant practice. It is much like exercise. Gaining physical strength demands exercise. It is no different for character. Growth of character is hard, demanding work. Growing our character requires action—the doing of right things instead of wrong things, keeping our word, honoring our obligations. We advance only by doing.

Every time we put our children’s needs before our own desires to watch TV, play computer games or go out, our character grows.

Every time we resist the temptation to make the easy decisions when they are wrong, our character grows.

Every time we decide to do our best in the face of adversity, even if it means going down swinging with a strike-out on the field of self-fulfillment, our character grows.

We all know people who have character. A living example for me was a boy named Chester. Chester was a big kid with a good southeast Missouri twang to his speech.

Although other big kids were bullies, Chester always stuck up for the little kids. He also did pretty well in

school, helped out in the family grocery store, and served as a Boy Scout leader.

Although you might think him unremarkable, to me he was more noble than any Knight of the Round Table. I should know, I was one of the kids he rescued.

Jeff, Joe, and Randy liked to pick on me during the forty-five minute bus ride home from school. After numerous battles and just as many defeats, Chester asked me to sit next to him. He and the other guys fought. Chester took a licking, but the harassment stopped. I was thankful for the respite.

I was even more thankful the next summer when I grew a foot and learned to box, but, that’s another story.

It is in the day-to-day, ordinary doing of life that we grow in character. It is in the manner in which you and I choose to live that shows the meaning and purpose for our existence.

A poem by an anonymous author speaks to this:
*Watch your thoughts; they become words.
Watch your words; they become actions.
Watch your actions; they become habits.
Watch your habits; they become character.
Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.
You are what you do. Now, Go do the right thing!*

Lt. Jerome A. Hinson,
Assistant Group Chaplain, 3rd FSSG

STREET TALK



Cpl. Benjamin Goins, 3rd Med Bn, 3rd FSSG

"Installing positive leadership and setting the example for junior Marines, above all."



Lance Cpl. Michael Flowers, 1/6, 3rd MarDiv

"Leadership by example."



Sgt. Juan Aranda, 9th ESB, 3rd FSSG

"Being able to prepare Marines for the future."



Lance Cpl. John Maholtz, 2/7, 3rd MarDiv

"Inspiring junior Marines to better themselves and looking out for their needs."



STAFF SGT. JASON M. WEBB

Sgt. Maj. Alford McMichael, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, and Gen. James L. Jones, Commandant of the Marine Corps, talks to an assembly of III MEF non-commissioned officers about issues affecting today's Marines.

Island NCOs present modern Corps issues to Commandant

Gunnery Sgt. Terence R. Peck

Press Chief

CAMP BUTLER — In a forum to highlight issues important to noncommissioned officers, 12 Marines gave the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James L. Jones and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. Alford L. McMichael, a presentation on various topics concerning the Marine Corps at Building 1 here, Monday.

The presentation was the outcome of an NCO Symposium held Sept. 14 and 15 at Camp Courtney.

During the symposium, noncommissioned officers from units throughout Okinawa discussed concerns and recommendations that would be presented to the Commandant.

The first presentation began with a discussion on common sense safety by Sgt. Angel I. Medina, noncommissioned officer-in-charge, stock clerk, Direct Support Stock Control, Marine Corps Base.

Common Sense Safety

During her presentation on common sense safety, Medina talked about alcohol related incidents, the driver's improvement course, motorcycle safety and safety stand-downs.

"One of our recommendations relating to alcohol is to limit the drinking in the barracks for private to lance corporal to the lounges," Medina said during her presentation.

She stated Marines in that pay grade are usually younger and new to drinking alcohol.

For the driver's improvement and motorcycle safety courses, she recommended that Marines be required to attend annually to reduce accidents.

Also included in her presentation was the recommendation of increasing inbound/outbound sobriety and seatbelt safety checkpoints. In addition, she recommended having a uniform shore patrol to help reduce alcohol related incidents off base.

Having more safety stand-downs was the last topic of Medina's presentation.

"We believe by increasing our safety stand-downs from yearly to quarterly, we would provide Marines with more knowledge," she said. "We also recommend that we have more variety of teachers."

Medina said the NCOs would like to see more Marines who may have either personal or off-duty experiences involving a safety issue. She also said that the stand-downs should be targeted to specifics ranks.

Empowerment of noncommissioned officers

Empowerment of noncommissioned officers was the next presentation given by Sgt. Erik D. Stone, Secure

Telephone Unit-III manager, G-6, 3rd Force Service Support Group and Cpl. Garret B. Biss, fiscal clerk, comptroller office, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

During the presentation, Stone recommended revising the wording on the NCO promotion warrant to "clearly reflect the additional duties and responsibilities of being an NCO."

Promoting core values

Sgt. Maurice S. Manning, Marine Air and Ground Task Force planner, Marine Wing Support Group-17, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, gave a presentation on promoting core values.

He recommended having more battle site tours, Professional Military Education classes containing nonfiction war movies. These classes help maintain the motivation Marines have after boot camp, Military Occupation Skills schools and eventually with their first unit.

Overseas Tour Length

Speaking on the current overseas tour length was Sgt. Micheal C. Mingin, G-3 Plans MAGTF planner, Marine Wing Headquarter Squadron-1, 1st MAW.

Mingin said the current 12-month overseas tour is inadequate because Marines may spend two to three months fulfilling other duties such as training requirements and mess duty.

Time away from their duties may contribute to lower MOS proficiency and skill levels, according to Mingin.

Mingin also stated that Marines leave the island right after becoming proficient in their jobs, causing hardship within the section when they have to train a new Marine.

In order to reduce the hardship on sections, he suggested lengthening unaccompanied tours to 18 months. He also recommended 18-month accompanied tours for corporals and lance corporals.

Retention

Sgt. Kevin L. West, assistant warehouse chief, Supply, 3rd Bn., 12th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, gave a presentation on retention.

West discussed service limitations, lateral moves and the ability of Marines to switch permanent change of station orders with their counterparts.

Concerning service limits, West recommended Headquarters Marine Corps convene a special board by MOS. The board would have the authority to waive

service limits.

For Marines who wish to make lateral moves, West would like career Marine to have that option without regard to the numbers of years served in an MOS

West also discussed allowing Marines to exchange PCS orders by using the Internet.

Quality of Life

Speaking on Quality of Life issues, Sgt. Cheryl J. Hyde, PCS chief, G-1, Marine Corps Base, covered military family housing and childcare.

Hyde recommended allowing Marines to be placed on the housing list before actually arriving to Okinawa. She asked the Commandant and Sgt. Maj. McMichael to keep fighting for the Marines to improve and maintain the highest quality of housing.

In addition to housing concerns, Hyde discussed military families where both parents work. According to Hyde, affordable and quality childcare is important because it has a major impact on family readiness and morale.

Health benefits

The next presentation dealt with quality medical care for active duty and family members. Sgt. Robert E. Allen, Jr., crew leader, Crash, Fire and Rescue, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, also addressed medical benefits for retired military members and their spouses.

Allen pursued the feasibility of providing medical benefits for spouses of retired Marines.

Allen stated that along with the Marine, the spouse usually has served just as long and deserves to have medical benefits after retirement.

Marine spouses

Sgt. Dustin J. Sutherland, quality control NCOIC, Motor Transport Maintenance Company, 3rd Materiel Readiness Bn., 3rd FSSG, gave his presentation on Marine spouses.

Sutherland recommended that spouses be recognized by the command when the Marine moves on to another duty station.

Commuted Rations

The last presentation was on Commuted Rations by Sgt. Eric Morland, radio supervisor, radio section, S-6, 3rd Bn., 3rd Marines, 3rd MarDiv.

Morland stated that COMRATS should be available for all Marines. He also suggested a credit card system be started so that Marines are only charged for the meals they eat.

After the presentation the Commandant thanked the NCOs for their presentations.

"You have really helped," he said. "I've gathered a lot of information today."

The Commandant also asked the NCOs to talk with Sgt. Maj. McMichael to give him information he would use before Congress. He wanted the NCOs to talk about their first tours in the Marine Corps.

"I can say on the witness stand that we've talk to, not the colonels, not the generals, not the sergeants major, but we talked to people who really can tell us about morale and that's the corporals and sergeants, the people who are really the backbone of the Marine Corps," Gen. Jones said.

For some NCOs who participated in the presentation, it proved the Commandant values their opinions.

"It truly makes me feel like the Commandant really wants to know what we feel and believe in," Allen said. "He's really for the people of the Marine Corps."

"I hope the Commandant will allow more of these to go on, which I think he will. I think that each command at each base should have their own monthly symposium so more topics can be addressed in a more through manner."

"I think it was a very good opportunity for NCOs to get together and discuss the issues that we have been having," Hyde said. "We can tell our next in command, but whether or not it gets to who it needs to get, we don't know. This way, we know that our issues are brought to the man himself and he can work to change them or make them better."



STAFF SGT. JASON M. WEBB

Gen. James L. Jones, Commandant of the Marine Corps, listens to ideas from the NCOs.

NCOs prepare for CMC visit

Cpl. Matthew E. Habib

Combat Correspondent

CAMP COURTNEY — Marine Corps noncommissioned officers on Okinawa took the reins and voiced their opinions on issues they felt needed to be addressed to the Commandant and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps during the NCO Symposium here.

Sergeant and corporal representatives from various units around the island gathered at the Camp Courtney Chapel Sept. 14-15 to discuss an array of concerns, and find ways to make improvements, according to Cpl. Garret B. Biss, fiscal clerk, Comptroller office, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

"The NCO symposium is a chance for NCO's to discuss problems that they see amongst the ranks," Biss said. "Everyone's experiences were consolidated and we were able to come up with different solutions to the problems, while forming a presentation for the Commandant and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps."

The Commandant and Sergeant Major specifically asked the Marines to examine two topics — safety, and empowerment and leadership of NCO's. From that point, the NCO's decided which additional topics they would present at the Sept. 18 symposium briefing, according to Biss.

"They have also chosen to address the issues of retention of Marines throughout the Marine Corps, quality of life, improvements to family service centers, tour lengths on Okinawa and comrats," Biss said.

While there were other issues they wanted to address, the NCO's chose what they felt were the most important topics, since the symposium lasted one hour, according to Biss. During the symposium, a different NCO addressed the Commandant and Sergeant Major for every topic."

While bringing an issue to light is the first step toward fixing a problem, coming up with a solution is where the battle is won, according to Biss.

"A perfect example of what we are trying to accomplish at the symposium is the topic of empowerment and leadership of NCO's. We would like to see the Corporal's and Sergeant's Course become mandatory for all newly promoted corporals and sergeants. Every NCO would then have

the same basic NCO training, as well as being able to lend their own style of leadership to the position," Biss said. "This would then hopefully reassure Staff NCO's to entrust more tasks and leadership roles to sergeants and corporals who are leading non-NCO's."

As far as the Marines rising to the challenge of dealing with these topics, the sergeants and corporals portrayed themselves as professionals, and did justice to the image of NCO's throughout the Marine Corps, said Sgt. Major Harry E. Brown III, sergeant major, III MEF.

"I gave the NCO's a little background and guidance, as far as the Commandant and Sergeant Major wanting to specifically hear the NCO's views, opinions and recommendations on empowerment and safety," Brown said. "In short of that, those were the only specific things I asked the NCO's to focus on. Anything else they wanted to generate as a concern — it was their symposium and was up to them. All I had to do is give them some advice and guidance on some minor issues, but it's really been their show and all the work and ideas came from the NCO's."

The NCO's also had to overcome some unfavorable odds. Preparations and rehearsals for the symposium were originally scheduled to begin Sept. 12, but due to a typhoon that hit the island, the NCO's had to adapt a different plan, according to Brown.

"The typhoon really hurt us. We were supposed to have two days to plan and two days to rehearse, but instead had only two days to prepare everything," Brown said. "Also, we were supposed to originally have a larger group, but not every NCO expected could attend for some reason or another, because of the typhoon."

The symposium was not any less of a success, however, because the NCO's who were able to attend filled in any weak points, Brown said.

"The NCO's who made up the symposium were quality Marines who were thinking of issues pertaining to the institution on the whole, and were not selfish or individually oriented," said Brown. "They understood exactly what the intent of the symposium is and jumped right in and thought things out. They represent the Corps very well and showed how capable NCO's really are."



STAFF SGT. JASON M. WEBB

Left to right, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Alford McMichael, Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James L. Jones and III MEF Commanding General Lt. Gen. Earl B. Hailston, take notes at a symposium where non-commissioned officers representing III MEF discussed issues affecting today's Marine Corps.

CMC's Okinawa scrapbook



STAFF SGT. JASON M. WEBB

Gen. James L. Jones, Commandant of the Marine Corps, speaks to media at a press conference held on Camp Butler Tuesday. The press conference concluded the Commandant's visit to Okinawa during which he visited with Okinawa's Governor, discussed issues with staff non-commissioned officers and their wives at Club Chesty's and held a non-commissioned officers symposium with III MEF/MCBJ representatives.



CPL. JACOB A. FULLER

Gen. James L. Jones, center, Commandant of the Marine Corps, and Lt. Gen. Earl B. Hailston, left, commanding general, III Marine Expeditionary Force, meet with Okinawa's governor Keiichi Inamine.



LANCE CPL. KATHY J. ARNDT

(above) Gen. James L. Jones, Commandant of the Marine Corps, presents 1st Lt. Errol L. Manor, Jr., forward observer, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit with the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal.



PFC. KEITH R. MEIKLE

Marines from Battery K, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, position the leg of the M-198 155mm Howitzer out to support the powerful blast of rounds being shot downrange. Battery K joined forces with Battery B during an artillery live-fire exercise in the East Fuji Maneuver Area, which began Sept. 3



Lance Cpl. Robert B. Matthews, plugger, Battery K, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, a UDP unit from Twenty-nine Palms, yanks the lanyard that launches

Rain and thunder at Mount Fuji live-fire

Pfc. Keith R. Meikle

Combat Correspondent

EAST FUJI MANEUVER AREA — Thunder echoed throughout the mountains and valleys of the training area as 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment began a live-fire exercise here Sept. 13.

Along with the thunder came the rain of steel, which when fired from the barrel of an M-198 155 mm Howitzer, can reach an enemy up to 30 kilometers away.

The goal of the exercise, according to Maj. Kerry T. Gordon, battalion executive officer, is “to enhance the warfighting capabilities of our batteries.”

For an artillery unit, warfighting capabilities means providing support to maneuver units. That support may consist of heavy artillery fire on an enemy position or a wall of smoke to provide cover for advancement, according to Gunnery Sgt. Manuel A. Colon, battery gunny, Battery B, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment. Battery B and Battery K, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, are the two firing batteries in this battalion-sized shoot. Both are assigned to 3/12 as part of the Unit Deployment Program.

While the job of any artillery unit is to accurately put steel on target, doing so requires a well-choreographed effort.

At the battalion level, the process begins with the Fire Support Coordination Center. The FSCC receives the target information from forward observers assigned to the maneuver unit and sends the call for fire information to the battalion Fire Direction Center. The battalion FDC processes the mission and sends it down to an available firing battery.

“We plan fire in support of the maneuver unit by evaluating the concept of operations handed down from the maneuver commander,” said 1st Lt. Waco Lane, FSCC officer, Battery K, 3/12.

The battery FDC computes the data from the forward observers and translates it into a fire order consisting of deflection (direction to the left or right), quadrant (elevation of barrel), charge and type of fuse and round to be used.

Accurately translating the information from the liaison officer into fire order demands great attention to detail. An error can cause innocent lives to be lost.

“If I give the line the wrong charge or deflection, they could easily kill somebody, so I have to be sure I do my job correctly,” said Staff Sgt. John D. Crites, operation chief, FDC, Battery K.

The gun line, the muscle of the operation, receives the fire order, adjusts the settings of the guns accordingly, and waits for the FDC to give the command to fire. After the round is fired, the process begins again with adjustments made according to the results of the previous shot.

“Even though we send the round downrange, we can’t calculate without the FDC. We can’t transport our howitzers without motor transport and we can’t communicate without the communication team,” said Colon. “The bottom line is we need to have strong camaraderie to be successful.”

That camaraderie is founded on shared experiences. During this exercise, shared experiences included living and working in often difficult field conditions resulting from several days of heavy rain.

“The rain makes you have to focus more and adds to the frustrations of training,” said Cpl. Lee Jackson, field radio operator, 3/12.

However, the adverse conditions added another facet to the training, by forcing the batteries to operate in unfamiliar situations.

“This is very beneficial training for us,” said Capt. George M. Robinson, commanding officer, Battery B. “It is very different from the Pohakuloa Train-

ing Area in Hawaii, which is like training on the surface of the moon in that it is dry and dusty with sharp lava rocks all around. We’re not used to the rain and its effects, which we have to deal with here.

“This type of diversity gives the Marines different and unique challenges which makes them more prepared for when we go somewhere for real,” he added.

The same was true for Battery K. “We hardly ever see rain in the desert at Twenty-nine Palms,” said Gunnery Sgt. Eric M. Johnson, battery gunnery sergeant, Battery K. “The terrain here is also a lot different, which makes for useful and varied training.”

Though sharpening operational proficiency is the clear goal of the exercise here, safety is an equally strong factor. While seasoned artillerymen invoke the power of St. Barbara, the seasoned saint of artillery, to protect them from accidents resulting from explosion, they know that a safety-conscious unit is the best protection against all types of mishaps.

“We have taken a number of safety precautions including using Operational Risk Management. ORM ensures everyone is aware of the dangers applicable to training and what measures to take to mitigate these dangers,” Gordon said.

Other safety precautions included an Operational Readiness Inspection of Battery K at the beginning of the exercise. Battery K joined 3/12 in early August and this was the battalion’s first opportunity to observe them in a live-fire environment.

Before doing so, 3/12 ensured the battery was familiar with the battalion’s standard operating procedures and prepared to fire safely.

“Safety is essential. We never want to risk troop welfare in a training environment,” Gordon said.

“As long as all the Marines enhance their warfighting capabilities and return to Okinawa safely with no injuries, this operation is a success,” he said.





PFC. KEITH R. MEIKLE

the round downrange in the East Fuji Maneuver Area. The Marines kicked off an artillery live-fire exercise at Camp Fuji Sept. 13.

Prepared, effective, safe: Battery K undergoes ORI

Pfc. Keith R. Meikle

Combat Correspondent

EAST FUJI MANEUVER AREA — Battery K, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment is “extremely proficient and ready to fire safely and train successfully.”

That was the assessment of 3/12 evaluators who conducted an Operational Readiness Inspection of the battery here Sept. 12 and 13, shortly before kicking off the battalion’s current live fire exercise.

The ORI was 3/12’s first opportunity to observe Battery K in a live-fire environment since the battery joined the battalion in early August.

Whenever 3/12 is assigned a new battery, they conduct an ORI of the unit to ensure they’re familiar with the battalion’s standard operating procedures and prepared to fire safely.

Eleven evaluators from 3/12 inspected battery operations. Areas they looked at included the fire direction center, ordnance and safety procedures on the gun line and forward observer and liaison procedures. Additionally, evaluators looked at motor transport, communication, local security and medical.

The areas were inspected during actual missions using scenarios arranged by the 3/12 evaluation staff. Though first-day missions were dry fire only, on

the Sept. 13 the battalion had the battery run through its paces during live-fire missions.

“For this inspection to be a success, we must ensure our shooting, moving and communicating is done safely and correctly,” said Gunnery Sgt. Eric M. Johnson, battery gunny, Battery K, 3/12.

“We can learn a lot from 3/12 and how they do things, but maybe they can take some knowledge from us as well,” said 2nd Lt. Brendan C. Fogerty, Battery K assistant executive officer and guns platoon commander.

While some units may excel in certain areas but prove lacking in others, Battery K proved themselves to be “equally proficient in all areas of inspection,” said Maj. Eric B. Garretty, 3/12 operations officer and the senior inspector.

That proficiency was no accident, but rather the result of months of intense preparation.

“We prepared for this exercise while in 29 Palms during six months of firing in the field as well as by studying knowledge to increase efficiency,” said Johnson.

“All we had to do was do what we do every day,” said Lance Cpl. Christopher J. Snell, a Battery K ammunition man. “This was just a walk in the park for us because they are just testing us on the things we do every day.”



PFC. KEITH R. MEIKLE

Lance Cpl. Anthony R. Stabolito, motor transport operator, Battery K, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, hands off a high explosive artillery round during the artillery live-fire exercise in the East Fuji Maneuver Area.



PFC. KEITH R. MEIKLE

Col. Daniel C. O'Brien, commanding officer, 12th Marine Regiment, takes time on the firing line to talk with Marines from Battery B during a break in firing at the East Fuji Maneuver Area.



PFC. KEITH R. MEIKLE

The barrel smokes following a blast of the M-198 155mm Howitzer.



Dropping the gloves

Lance Cpl. Damian McGee

Combat Correspondent

CAMP FOSTER— It was the championship bout during the Junior Olympics in 1998. Two fighters had gone the distance and awaited the decision. It was this decision that made “Red Boy” quit what he now says is his calling.

“Everyone knew I’d won the fight,” said Travis R. Scott, an out-booking agent with the Camp Foster Traffic Management Office.

Everyone, except for the referees.

Scott didn’t receive the victory; that decision changed his life.

“I lost motivation and thought I’d lost the love for boxing,” Scott said. “But now

Rising Star

Continuing a journey he began years earlier, an Oki Marine fights his way back into the ring, earns a spot on the All-Marine Boxing Team

I’ve realized how much it really meant to me.”

Scott began his boxing career at age 11 because of his mother’s style of parenting.

“In my house you, of course, had to go to school, but you also had to do something constructive with your free time,” Scott said. “I chose to fight.”

For Scott, his choice would prove to be rewarding.

When Scott began boxing, in 1991, it was his uncle, Frank James, who took on the task of being his coach. Under James, this Louisiana native said he found a love matched only by that for his mother.

“When I’m in the ring I’m in control,” Scott said. “With the exception of my mother, I love boxing more than anything else.”

The ring, according to Scott, a private first class, provides the same security a child would associate with being wrapped in his mother’s arms.

Scott has only lost 19 out of 170 fights during his seven-year boxing career.

“I know how to get in the ring and work all areas of my opponent,” Scott said. “In many ways, I’d consider myself a technician, but someone already

owns that name.”

After taking a two-year break, Scott’s desire for boxing resurfaced, leading him to train on his own. It was during one of these training sessions that Scott was spotted by Donald K. Hansen, his current coach and trainer.

“I’ve been involved with boxing for nearly 25 years,” Hansen said. “And when I saw how Scott handled himself, I knew he had some experience,”

Having seen boxers come and go, Hansen said he was still not sure whether this was the type of fighter he normally looked for.

“I put him in the ring with some of my more experienced fighters,” Hansen said. “And not one of them could lay a glove on him.”

It was then Hansen said he knew that Scott had exactly what he was looking for.

Scott was eager to accept the offer, but refused to ignore his existing ties.

“I believe in loyalty and family first,” Scott said. “So I had to call my uncle and ask him if he minded me fighting under someone else.”

Receiving his uncle’s blessings, Scott set out on a mission to finish what he had started in 1991.

“I owe it to my uncle, my mother and everyone else who has helped me to become as successful at this,” Scott said.

Despite having been nominated Best Boxer of the Year in 1995 and 1996, and being ranked as one of the top 10 amateurs throughout his entire career, Scott is still managing to encounter aspects of boxing that are steadily posing a challenge.

“Coach. Hansen trains very similar to my uncle, only harder,” Scott said. “He’s really challenging me.”

And with the true heart of a Marine, Scott is meeting this challenge head on.

“I don’t think I was ever in shape before, I just fought off of instinct,” Scott said. “Coach Hansen is giving me the opportunity to see how good I could really be if I was in shape.”

Scott believes training with Hansen is what he needed to take him to the top of his game.

“Boxing is my job, and I take my job seriously,” Scott said. “Where as most people go to work five days a week... I go that extra day because I know my opponent won’t.”

This extra initiative has made him better, Scott admits, but has caused him to make certain sacrifices. Drinking, smoking and late nights out are all things Scott is willing to give up.

“When you box, you have to sacrifice,” Scott said. “I’d rather sacrifice my fun now and enjoy myself later.”

In spite of his proven success, Scott manages to stay very humble in his views of himself and boxing.

“Anyone can be beaten on any night,” he said. “When it’s your turn to lose, it’s your turn.”

But, wearing his pride like a medal, Scott said he also believes he is one of the best contenders in the nation on the amateur level.

“I’ve proven to myself and others that I can perform,” Scott said. “I’m not cocky, but I hold myself to a high standard. If I tell someone I’m the best, then I have to be the best.”

Being the best is something Scott said he believes he can obtain from his forthcoming involvement with the All-Marine Boxing team.

“I hope to add a lot of wins to the team’s record,” he said. “I know I’ll be a strong asset.”

In addition to wins, Hansen feels that Scott will assist his team in experience and dedication.

“He’s not only a great fighter, but a teacher as well,” Hansen said.

Scott is eager to teach others how he has reached his current level, but says he is also eager to learn from others.

“Even though boxing is a one man sport, the members of the team will be able to help one another when we train,” he said.

Scott has been selected for the All-Marine Boxing team and is currently awaiting orders to Camp Lejeune, N.C.

With desires of fighting in the Olympics and turning professional, Scott is simply prepared to lay his all on the line and let the opponents fall where they may.

“I think of myself as a storyteller,” Scott said. “People know as much about me as they do an unopened book. However, when the book is cracked open, it’s time to sit back and let the story unfold.”



LANCE CPL. DAMIAN MCGEE

Travis R. Scott practices on a double-end bag. “Boxing is my job, and I take my job seriously,” he said of his training routine.



LANCE CPL. DAMIAN MCGEE

Travis R. Scott takes punches to his stomach to condition himself for bodyshots that may occur during a real match.



CPL. MATTHEW HABIB

In the final fight of the evening, Marine boxer Michael Marzano gives a solid straight left to Navy boxer Travis Clarke. Marzano would go on to dominate the bout, winning the 210-pound category. "I had a great fight with a good opponent," Clarke said after the match.

Saturday Night Fights return to Foster

Cpl. Matthew Habib

Combat Correspondent

CAMP FOSTER — Twenty-four boxers from almost every rank, branch of service and experience level, slugged it out at the Foster Field House Sept. 16.

Before more than 800 spectators, boxers from the Okinawan Boxing Club fought through standard weight classes during three-round, three-minute bouts.

For many of the fighters, it was their first real experience in a bout.

Many of the boxers said the experience they gained was worth the night, according to Richard Plummer, a Marine boxer from Camp Hansen.

"It was a good first experience for me. Even though I got my head knocked around," Plummer said. "I came in two days before the tournament, punched around a little bit and that was it. During the bout, I pretty much

just went in there and brawled it out the best I could. But my opponent was experienced and got the better of me halfway through the second round."

Even veteran fighters walked away with accomplishments, especially if they've been away from the sport for a while, according to Travis Clarke, a Navy Seabee boxer.

"I could tell my fighter had a lot of experience, and every time he got inside to me, I could tell the little mistakes I was making and was able to catch them," Clarke said. "I was really angry at myself for not being in as good shape as I should have been, and worried about whether or not I could go the distance. I did though, had a great fight with a good opponent and walked away knowing where I stand and what I need to work on."

All the boxers were able to agree on one thing at the end of the night, according to Donald K. Hansen, Okinawa Boxing Club coach and tournament organizer — each man who entered the ring that night put his heart into the fight.

"I know it looks easy to everyone who's sitting in the stands watching the fight and they're thinking 'Oh, I can kick that guy's butt,' but very few really realize how much energy it takes to get in there and go those three rounds," Hansen said. "I tell my guys all the time that I

can give them the training, give them the endurance, but I can't give them the heart. When it comes down to it, whether the odds are against you or you're evenly matched, the guy with the most heart usually goes home the winner."

Trophies were given to every boxer, win or lose, but according to Hansen, as soon as someone enters the ring, they've already won.

"Boxing is combat in its most basic form and in this sport, there are no real losers," Hansen said. "A boxer may lose the fight on points, but he's a winner for facing his fears and going toe-to-toe with someone else. All that remains after a bout is a champion and a runner-up."

The crowd also contributed to the night's atmosphere almost as much as the boxers themselves, according to Hansen.

"The crowd was great the night of the tournament and was double the size from the previous tournament," Hansen said. "Hopefully, the spectators will continue to grow the way it has been and stay energetic. On some fights, when the crowd could sense both fighters were giving it their all, everyone would literally be out of their seats and cheering for their favorite boxer, which of course would just motivate that boxer to fight even harder. They really feed off of each others' excitement, which makes the match that much more fun."

For hopeful boxers looking for their chance to enter the ring, Hansen said joining the team is the easy part, but staying dedicated is what separates the men from the boys.

"The boxing program costs nothing," Hansen said. "All you have to do is show up at our practices at the Foster Field House on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. The only thing I ask for is that you have hand-wraps and mouthpieces, and if you don't have those, we can sell them at cost value."

All service members are allowed to join the boxing club regardless of rank, age or gender, according to Hansen.

For more information on the Okinawa Boxing Club and tournaments, call Hansen at 645-7444/7445, or the Camp Foster Marine Corps Community Services Office at 645-3985.



CPL. MATTHEW HABIB



(above) Travis Clarke narrowly ducks under the onslaught of Michael Marzano.

(left) Beat but not beaten, Travis Clarke's corner tries to patch him up and encourage their fighter between rounds.

The Marketplace



Automobiles/ motorcycles

1988 Honda CRX — JCI Dec 00, \$650 OBO. Joe, 645-0792/646-5573.
1987 Toyota Van — JCI Jun 02, \$2,300 OBO. 646-3166 or 645-2994.
1989 Nissan Skyline — JCI Jun 01, \$1,900 OBO. 637-5239 or 637-2117.
1991 Suzuki Escudo — JCI Apr 02, \$2,000; **1989 Toyota Lite Ace** — JCI Aug 02, \$2,500. 637-5131.
1992 Honda Vigor — JCI Sep 01, \$3,000 OBO. 637-4479 or 645-3979.
1987 Toyota Carina — JCI Sep 02, \$1,500. 637-3331.
1975 Toyota Charib — Free. Jason, 636-3004 or 636-5141.
1988 Nissan Cefiro — JCI Oct 01, \$2,000 OBO. 646-4255 or 645-3899.
1989 Toyota Corona — JCI Nov 00, make offer. 623-4258 or 968-8387.
1993 Kawasaki KX125 — \$1,800 OBO. 623-5391.
1992 Honda Vigor — JCI Sep 01, \$3,000 OBO. 637-4479 or 645-3979.
1987 Honda VFR — JCI Mar 02, \$1,500. Alan, 636-3322.
1988 Honda CRX — JCI May 02, \$900 OBO. 646-3696 or 645-2877.
1988 Mitsubishi Delica — JCI Oct 00, \$600 OBO. 646-8348 or 645-2877.
1990 Honda Concerto — JCI Oct. 01, \$2,500 OBO. Bill Taylor, 622-6581.
1991 Nissan Sunny — JCI Sep 02, \$2,235. **1990 Nissan Cesiro** — JCI Sep 02, \$2,235. **1993 Toyota Ceres** — JCI Sep 02, \$2,535. 637-7772.
1990 Toyota Corona — JCI May 01, \$1,500 OBO. Naresh, 625-3036.
1988 Toyota Lite Ace — JCI Jul 02, \$3,500. Jim, 646-4905.
1991 Nissan Bluebird — JCI Dec 01, \$1,500 OBO. **1989 Toyota** — JCI Jul 02, \$2,800 OBO. 622-8160.
1977 Mitsubishi Jeep — JCI Aug 02, \$2,500 OBO. 623-4948 or 633-7373.
1986 Toyota Town Ace — JCI Feb 02, \$1,900 OBO. 646-4539.
1988 Honda Accord — JCI Oct 01, \$1,400 OBO. Scott, 622-6608.
1989 Toyota Corolla — JCI Oct 00, \$600. 646-5916.
1988 Honda Civic — JCI April 01, \$1,000 OBO. Carl, 622-6689.
1991 Mazda MX-6 — JCI Jun 02, \$3,000 OBO. 646-4863.



Miscellaneous

Pet — Rottweiler, 7-months-old, male w/accessories, \$300 OBO. 622-8554.
Misc. — Baby crib, full size, \$50; Navy blue Carpet, 6X9, \$50. 646-4923.
Misc. — Samsung DVD/VCD/CD player w/5 speakers, \$350; Sega Dreamcast w/4 games \$180; e-mail at jay3_hey@yahoo.com.
Scuba gear — Older Buoyancy Control Device, \$40; Scuba Diving Console, \$200. Jim, 646-4905.
Misc. — Comforter, \$15; George Foreman Lean Mean Grill Mach, \$40; women's med black leather jacket, \$45; women's med suede leather jacket, \$40; two large brass plant pots, \$8 each; two maple end tables, \$15 each; Hose w/reel, \$15; creme lamp, \$10; Assorted VHS movies, \$5 each; \$40; Oyster breadmaker, \$80; two stenciled stools, \$15, phone, \$5; videotape holder, \$10; assorted infant clothes; Classic Pooh decorative wall border, \$12; Fisher Price Slumbertime Soother w/remote control, \$15; Pooh voice-activated musical crib light, \$10; portable baby changing pad, \$10; Sesame Street Tub Puzzle, \$3; women's professional suits, \$35 each. Jennifer, 622-8412.
Misc. — Wrought iron custom made canopy bed, \$300; black frame computer desk, \$50; Phillips Magnavox 20" color TV w/remote, \$50. 646-4618.
Misc. — Power Wheels Barbie Splash Jeep, \$75; changing table, \$75; two large suitcases, \$5 each; curtain material, \$100; leather brief case, \$15; Bed-in-a-Bag w/1 set curtains, \$20; electric weed eater, \$15; child carrier seat for bicycle, \$15; bedspread w/dust ruffle and pillow sham, \$20. Mark or Gail, 645-5165.
Misc. — Beige curtains, \$50; baby snugly bouncer, \$15; two snugly baby carriers, \$7, \$10; Manual Evenflo Breast pump, \$10; portable electric Evenflo Breast pump, \$15. 622-8160
Misc. — Marinell-EX underwater camera w/ accessories. \$2,500 OBO. Joseph, 637-1880/1110.
Misc. — Hewlett Packard graphic calculator w/ manual, \$25 OBO; new Mitsubishi VCR. Ben, 926-1666.



Coming to a theater near you ...

Feature programs and start times are subject to change without notice! Second evening movies will vary when the program runs longer than 120 minutes.

Butler (645-3465)

Fri The Art of War (R); 7:00
Sat Shanghai Noon (PG13); 1:00, 4:00
Sat The Art of War (R); 7:00, 10:00
Sun Chicken Run (G); 1:00, 4:00
Sun The Art of War (R); 7:00
Mon The Perfect Storm (PG13); 7:00
Tue The Perfect Storm (PG13); 7:00
Wed Shanghai Noon (PG13); 7:00
Thu Shanghai Noon (PG13); 7:00

Courtney (622-9616)

Fri Me, Myself and Irene (R); 7:00
Sat Shanghai Noon (PG13); 7:00
Sun The Perfect Storm (PG13); 7:00
Wed Chicken Run (G); 7:00

Futenma (636-3890)

Fri Gone in 60 Seconds (PG13); 7:30
Sat Me, Myself and Irene (R); 7:30
Sun Where the Heart is (PG13); 7:30
Mon The Crew (PG13); 7:30
Wed The Art of War (R); 7:30

Hansen (623-4564)

Fri The Cell (R)
Sat The Cell (R)
Sun The Perfect Storm (PG13)
Mon Shanghai Noon (PG13)
Tue Shanghai Noon (PG13)
Wed Love and Basketball (PG13)

Thu Love and Basketball (PG13)

Call Hansen for start times

Keystone (634-1869)

Fri The Crew (PG13); 6:30, 9:30
Sat Chicken Run (G); 1:00
Sat The Crew (PG13); 5:30, 8:30
Sun Chicken Run (G); 2:00
Sun Shanghai Noon (PG13); 5:30, 8:30
Mon Shanghai Noon (PG13); 7:00
Tue The Perfect Storm (PG13); 7:00
Wed The Perfect Storm (PG13); 7:00
Thu The Art of War (R); 7:00

Kinser

(637-2177)

Fri The Perfect Storm (PG13); 7:00
Sat Chicken Run (G); 3:00
Sat The Perfect Storm (PG13); 7:00, 10:30
Sun Shanghai Noon (PG13); 7:00
Tue Chicken Run (G); 7:00
Wed The Perfect Storm (PG13); 7:00
Thu Shanghai Noon (PG13); 7:00

Schwab

(625-2333)

Fri Where the Heart is (PG)
Sat The Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle (PG)
Sat Me, Myself and Irene (R)
Sun The Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle (PG)
Sun Me, Myself and Irene (R)
Mon Me, Myself and Irene (R)
Tue Small Time Crooks (PG)
Wed Chickn Run (G)
Thu Dinosaur (PG)

Call Schwab for start times

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